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Security Council

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Letter dated 8 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform the Security Council of the latest developments that have occurred in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On Wednesday, 8 October 2008, at 4 a.m. local time, troops of the regular army of Rwanda launched an offensive against the locality of Rumangabo, a key point on the Goma-Rutshuru road.

A detachment of troops of the regular army of Rwanda was observed between the localities of Bunangana and Kibumba, situated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This resumption of hostilities has caused large numbers of people to flee the areas of combat, adding to the 1.6 million Congolese who have already been internally displaced.

A concentration of Rwandan regular forces has also been observed in Gisenyi, a Rwandan town neighbouring Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. An attack by Rwanda on the town of Goma seems imminent, possibly within hours.

My Government notes that this escalation in tension provoked by Rwanda is part of an orchestrated attempt to sabotage all of the peace processes in the region, to destroy the hard won successes of the democratic process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to prolong the state of permanent conflict in pursuit of secret objectives.

Once again, Rwanda is proving beyond doubt that it is the main obstacle to peace in the region.

The recent declarations and barely concealed threats by the President of Rwanda, as reported in the press, fall within that logic of war and death (see interview with the Belgian newspaper Le Soir, of 6 September 2008).

My Government therefore calls on the Security Council to:

1. Strongly condemn these new acts of aggression by Rwanda and this further violation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

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2. Demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Rwandan troops;

3. Hold Rwanda responsible for the grave violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law, including the new displacement of populations within the country;

4. Assume its responsibilities under the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations to put an end to these acts of aggression on the part of Rwanda.

My Government invites the Council to take action on this request and would be grateful if you could arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ileka **Atoki**
Ambassador